

VZCZCXRO5707
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH RUEHVC
DE RUEHBJ #3614 2621003
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 181003Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9989
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0241
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0125
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0439
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA 0039
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 0109
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 0003
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 4733

UNCLAS BEIJING 003614

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [VE](#) [CH](#) [GG](#) [KN](#)

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 18 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: TAINTED MILK SCANDAL,
DPRK, GEORGIA, TAIWAN AND THE UN

11. Key points at the September 18 afternoon MFA press briefing were:

-- China "will be responsible and will seriously handle the issue" of contaminated milk.

-- China "firmly opposes" food smuggling to the DPRK and will continue to provide food assistance to the DPRK.

-- China "supports the UN Observer Mission to Georgia and hopes to see it continue to carry out its duties."

-- China welcomes the UN General Committee's rejection of the proposal to put Taiwan's participation in UN activities on the UN General Assembly agenda.

Tainted Milk Scandal

12. At the September 18 regular MFA press briefing, spokesperson Jiang Yu said that the General Administration of Quality Inspection announced that two Chinese companies, Guangdong-based Yashili and Qingdao-based Suncare, have been forced to recall their milk powder, which is exported to five countries in Africa and Asia: Bangladesh, Yemen, Gabon, Burundi and Myanmar. She stressed that there have been no reports of illness from the milk powder in those five countries and that Chinese authorities "within a relatively short amount of time have taken effective measures" to deal with the tainted milk scandal. Calling food safety "a joint challenge for all governments," Jiang said that China "will be responsible and will seriously handle this issue."

DPRK

13. In response to a question about reports that Kim Jong-il's son was seen in Beijing yesterday, Jiang said that she was not aware of such reports. Responding to a separate question on reports of grain smuggling from China to the DPRK, Jiang said that China "firmly opposes illegal trade" and will continue to provide food assistance to the DPRK. She added that solving the food shortage in the DPRK is "the responsibility of the international community" and that China actively cooperates with the World Food Program.

UN Observer Mission to Georgia

14. Jiang said that China has "taken note of and will study some countries' suggestion to send UN peacekeepers to Georgia." Noting that the UN Observer Mission to Georgia has "played an important role in safeguarding peace and stability," Jiang said that China supports the UN Observer Mission and hopes to see it continue to carry out its duties.

Taiwan Participation at the UN

¶15. Jiang said that the UN General Committee's refusal to accept the proposal to put Taiwan's participation in UN activities on the UN General Assembly agenda "reflects most UN member states' determination to abide by the one China policy." She added that the issue of Taiwan's participation at the UN should be resolved "through consultations by Chinese people on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait."

Chavez Visit to China

¶16. In response to a question about new agreements planned for Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's September 23-25 visit to Beijing, Jiang said that China and Venezuela enjoy "normal state-to-state relations" and that China "would like to deepen relations with all Latin American countries, including Venezuela." She said that she did not have any information on new agreements.

Reporting Rules for Foreign Journalists

¶17. For the second week in a row, a journalist asked about the soon-to-expire Olympics reporting rules for foreign journalists. Jiang said that she had no specific information to share but stressed that China will continue its policy of openness and will continue to welcome foreign journalists to China. She expressed hope that foreign journalists will abide by Chinese laws and "cover China in an objective and fair manner."

RANDT